merging, and integrating the functions of various institutions currently operating in the jute sector. The Government is also contemplating to establish a National Institute on Natural Fibres and a National Jute and Jute textile Museum.

(vii) Operationalise the Jute Technology Mission expeditiously.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pathetic condition of powerloom sector

4481. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic conditions of powerloom sector in the country particularly of Tamil nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Central Assistance has been given for reviving and rejuvenating powerloom industry in this country; and

(d) whether Government has formulated any scheme for modernisation/ upgradation of powerloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Powerloom industry in the country is very vibrant. There is no deterioration in the condition of the powerloom industry in the country. The production in. powerloom sector has been steadily increasing over the years and in 2004-05 the powerloom sector has produced 28526 million sqr. mtr. (provisional) of cloth which accounts for 63% of the total cloth production of the country. There has also been a steady increase in the number of looms installed in the state of Tamil Nadu as shown below:

Year	No. of Looms registered	Employment (Anticipated)
2002-03	320196	800490
2003-04	334372	835930
2004-05	365797	914493

(c) and (d) The Government seeks to promote powerloom sector through the follwing Schemes throughout the country including the State of Tamil Nadu:—

(i) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), established to provide various services, such as skill upgradation and testing facilities to powerloom weavers, have been upgraded with modern looms, other machinery and equipment to improve the quality of services and facilitation for modernisation under the Plan Scheme Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres.

(ii) To facilitate the creation of new designs, improve the designs and production in the fast changing global tradition in fashion, the computer Aided Design (CAD) Centres were set up at 17 major powerloom clusters. Government provides financial support to these Centres at a fixed rate of Rs. 6.75 lakh per annum under the Plan Scheme Support to Computer Aided Design Centres.

(iii) A Group Insurance Scheme has been implemented to provide over the powerloom workers against unforeseen death, accident and disability.

(iv) With a view to improve the working environment and enable the powerloom workers in obtaining higher productivity, Government has implemented a Group Workshed Scheme. This Scheme provides subsidy for construction of worksheds limited 25% of the unit cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 80/-per sq. ft. In-order to improve other infrastructure facilities the scheme envisages a link with the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS), which provides central assistance for improving critical infrastructure in existing or emerging textile centres.

(v) For modernisation of powerloom sector, a programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 20% Credit Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement on the loan availed.